

About two recent butterfly records from the Island of Thassos, Greece

By JOHN G. COUTSIS *

During an inspection of the butterfly collection at the Goulandris Museum, near Athens, two male *Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe* Linnaeus were encountered, that bore the following data: Griechenland Insel Thassos Limin 28.6.1968 leg. A. Kutsaftikis. The specimens were subsequently dissected, with the kind permission of the museum directors, and their genitalia showed them to belong to ssp. *hippothoe*, an inhabitant of central and northern Europe, and not, as had been expected, to ssp. *leonhardi* Fruhstorfer, which replaces the former in the Balkans and which is essentially a high mountain butterfly.

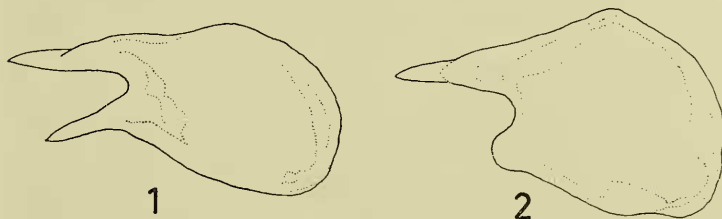


Fig. 1. Side view of exterior face of right valva of *Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe hippothoe* Linnaeus, bearing the following data: Griechenland Insel Thasso Limin 28.6.1968 leg. A. Kutsaftikis.

Fig. 2. Side view of exterior face of right valva of *Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe leonhardi* Fruhstorfer. 5 kms. south of Florina, Macedonia, Greece, 1300 m., leg. J. Stamatiades.

In view of the altogether unexpected presence of this ssp. on Thassos island and of the recently reported record of *Colias phicomone* Esper from the same island (Koutsaftikis, 1974), it becomes evident that more field work ought to be undertaken there in hope of solving some of the mysteries and perplexities presented by the island's faunal composition.

References

- Higgins, L. G., 1975. *The Classification of European Butterflies*. Collins, London.
 Koutsaftikis, A., 1974. Recent Butterfly Records from Greece. *Ent. Record*, 86: 15-17.

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SIGHTING OF A YELLOW FORM OF THE SMALL WHITE (*PIERIS RAPAE* L.). — In late July 1978, I was returning home through the New Forest on the dual carriageway by Picket Post and the junction on the right to Burley; a little further on but before the then diversion, the traffic was stopping and moving for some distance. On the left grass verge four Small Whites were playing and feeding, and after looking at them a few times I saw that one was pure yellow. I had a really good look, and cursed my bad luck for being in the outside lane and helpless. — JOHN PAYNE, 10 Ranelagh Road, Wellingborough, Northants.